

emission). No exceedance occurred on March 14, 1995, apparently due in large part because U. S. Steel implemented some of the components of its current PM₁₀ Self-Audit Action Plan. It remains to be seen whether this plan can be successful under all meteorological conditions.

Some important differences exist between the PM₁₀ action plan and the Ozone Action Plan. These should help make the PM₁₀ plan easier to administer and effective:

- The Ozone Action Plan requires education and commitment from a broad spectrum of people engaged in diverse activities; the PM₁₀ plan focuses on a small, concentrated group, which already have a management system in place.
- The Ozone Action Plan requires communication to millions of people; the PM₁₀ plan includes a formal communications network involving fewer than 2000 people.
- The Ozone Action Plan requires voluntary action by a high percentage of the County's population; the PM₁₀ plan requires action by a well trained few.

SECTION X

-Timing of Proposed Rule is inappropriate for data taken at the Lincoln high-volume site.

The Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) was modified in November 1990. The CAA placed emphasis on Group II areas, areas with a demonstrated NAAQS violation, as measured prior to January 1, 1989.

The Liberty Borough-Clairton area was designated as moderate non-attainment, based on air-quality data at the Liberty Borough monitoring site prior to January 1, 1989. "Moderate" areas automatically designated and classified by operation of law in the 1990 amendments must attain no later than December 1, 1994; all other moderate areas (i.e., those designated after enactment of the 1990 amendments) must attain "by no later than the end of the sixth calendar year after the area's designation as non-attainment."

Based on all of the relevant facts, it is the U. S. Steel position that:

1. The Liberty Borough Clairton area should be designated as attainment, based on the fact that the original station responsible for the non-attainment (Liberty Borough) now has three years of data (1992-1994) to support an attainment designation.
2. As intended by the Clean Air Act, it was the responsibility of government to submit a SIP revision to demonstrate attainment by November 15, 1991.
3. The EPA issued a notice on December 16, 1991, for the failure of government to submit a SIP.
4. The timing in the Act, along with sanctions, etc., was based on having a SIP submitted by November 15, 1991, so that sources could have approximately three years to install and demonstrate compliance by the statutory deadline of December 31, 1994.
5. From a timing standpoint, it is only fair, reasonable, and practical to base attainment/non-attainment ruling on the station(s) that was in non-attainment as of January 1, 1989, (CAA designation basis) or November 15, 1991 (SIP submittal deadline) and to track compliance/non-compliance with that station until December 31, 1994.
6. All other non-attainment areas (i.e., those designated after enactment of the amendments) such as the Lincoln high-volume station - the basis of the proposed rule should attain "by no later than the end of the sixth calendar year after the area's designation as non-attainment."

Hence, if the Lincoln high-volume station (which did not start until September 1992) comes into play (and that is highly questionable because of siting problems, conflicting data, inaccurate data due to passive accumulation and biased high data because of the propane generator exhausting between 10,000 and 18,000 ug/M³ of contamination near the high volume sampler intake), then it should be given "no later than the end of the sixth calendar year after being designated as non-attainment. Without this interpretation and considering that SIP was not submitted until 1993 chaos and confusion reign. For example, sources did not have to install additional controls until 1993-1994. It would be unjust to have a source install \$200 million dollars of controls in 1993-1994 and now in 1995 be designated as serious for exceedances that occurred prior to the installation date of the \$200 million dollar program i.e. for the year 1992 as being referred to in the proposed rule. It would also be unfair to U.S. Steel who installed \$200 million dollars of controls, the majority of which was earlier than SIP requirements of 1993-1994 and be designated as part of a serious nonattainment area requiring additional BACM controls.

SECTION XI-**Leveling the Playing Field and Motivating
Individuals to Higher Levels of
Environmental Excellence and Leadership**

The actions that the Federal EPA is considering today can and will have serious environmental consequences on U. S. Steel's Clairton Works. The proposed action today could and should result in all or the largest majority of area surrounding U. S. Steel's Clairton Works, as being classified as attainment for particulates and, if the EPA wants to update the records for SO₂, the area should also be designated as attainment for sulfur oxides. This could be an historic event, i.e., the first time in twenty (20) years that such actions could be taken. We would like to express an industrial viewpoint on this difficult decision and how the outcome could affect environmental progress in the years to come.

Consider the differences and ruling on non-attainment issues with respect to three different air pollutants in Western Pennsylvania.

1. **VOC.** Almost to the day that VOC had attained a three-year record of attainment, a request was being made to reclassify the area to "attainment." Since the action would generally help the public, there was no adverse comment and the issue sailed through the administrative procedures of government. As a result, in the Federal Register in the past year, the Southwestern Pennsylvania area was designated as "attainment."
2. **SO₂/Clairton Area.** About \$50 million was spent to control sulfur emissions at Clairton Works. Attainment levels were achieved. However, problems occurred due to some malfunctions. U. S. Steel voluntarily installed back-up control facilities and **continuously runs the back-up system, probably unprecedented with industry in Western Pennsylvania.** As a result, there has not been an SO₂ air-quality violation in five years. The area should be classified now as "attainment" (in fact, even the EPA in a recent Federal Register referred to the area as "attainment"), but officially the area is still designated as "unclassifiable."

The point is that it is our perception that it is extremely difficult for the agencies to take any positive control actions with respect to coke works air emission sources.

3. **PM₁₀/Liberty Borough Area.** About \$200 million was spent to control air emissions. All areas in 1995 show attainment (although one small area had conflicting data between two monitors at that same site). Thousands

of samples over the last three years show major improvements in air quality and the majority support attainment.

Incredibly, there is no mention of proposing the area as "attainment", but to move the area from "moderate non-attainment" to "serious non-attainment".

The issues go further than the big issues of "attainment" or "non-attainment," but occur on the day-in/day-out activities of the agency. For example, to show how extremely conscientious is the Allegheny County Health Department the following is an excerpt from the Allegheny County PM₁₀ comments:

"Prior to establishing this tenth monitoring station in the Liberty Borough/Clairton Nonattainment Area, the County had to acquire property access rights from two different property owners, one of whom is located out-of-state, and cut in a 2000 foot gravel roadway through undeveloped property. Due to the lack of accessible utilities, the County has powered the station from its inception to the present time with a series of generators and back-up generators. Limited access to Gobblers Knob contributed to the multiple problems encountered with providing continuous power to the Lincoln monitor and adversely affected the percentage of data recovered as explained in Table C.1. of Appendix C, Data Recovery Rates for the Lincoln High-Volume Monitor.

"For example, a breakdown in both the primary and back-up generators caused a devastating 125 day outage from October 1, 1994 through February 2, 1995. The motor burned out in one generator and the back-up one went down soon thereafter. The repair cost nearly equaled the cost of a new replacement generator. A lengthy manufacturing delay occurred after the County ordered a new water cooled, larger capacity generator. This new generator was installed and sampling started on February 3, 1995."

In order to level the playing field, a national or regional study should be conducted to determine the following:

1. The number of monitors used by various agencies at various coke-plant operations.
2. Whether non-attainment monitors were ever moved. If so, were the monitors moved away or closer to the source?

We believe that the results of the above study will show that our operations are and have been subjected to unjust or disproportionate environmental scrutiny.

We believe that the USEPA should declare the area "attainment." We feel that this action will do much to raise environmental morale of all of the 1750 workers at Clairton Works.

U.S. Steel recognizes the conscientiousness and tremendous efforts of the Allegheny Health Department to solve this difficult non-attainment issue. To highlight the effectiveness of the Allegheny county Bureau of Environmental Quality, one only has to look at the tremendous improvements in air quality readings at the Liberty Borough monitor, i.e. no violations of the air quality standards for the period 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995.

For this reason, and to avoid potential litigation, U.S. Steel, under a worst case scenario, would support the following recommendation for reclassification:

Reclassify the areas of Liberty Borough, Clairton, Glassport, Port Vue and largest part of Lincoln as Attainment. Reclassify the very small area near the Lincoln High-volume site as "unclassifiable." Go forward with either a one year or two year or even six year (as referenced to in the CAA) extension and find a new representative replacement monitor site in Lincoln near inhabited buildings and , equipped with continuous, electrically powered samplers. Use data at this site to make a future decision on the attainment status of this small section of Lincoln.

Section XIII - U. S. Steel's Recommendations

1. Reclassify the Liberty Borough, Pennsylvania nonattainment area as attainment, or
2. Grant Extension. As recommended by the Allegheny County Health Department grant a one (1) or two (2) year extension or perhaps even a six (6) year extension, since the controversial Lincoln Station commenced operation after the 11/15/91 submittal data required for State Implementation Plans. (See Section XIII)

In summary, we believe this proposal is the most important Clean Air Act issue that we have faced in the last 20 years. Reasonable decisions on this issue can remove the stigma of "nonattainment". Programs based on "Environmental Excellence" can then be implemented as we approach the year 2000. Thank you for considering our detailed comments.

EXHIBIT IT C

Reader's Viewpoint

Pollution Standards Met!

This letter is in regard to area pollution. Allegheny County data shows that Clairton, Port Vue, Liberty and Glassport have clearly achieved the national standards.

The only area in doubt is a small, uninhabited area in the Borough of Lincoln. The data collected from this monitoring site is of questionable validity. There is no data supporting unhealthful exposure to the people of the area. The Health Department opposes the serious non-attainment reclassification of this area, as do all of the real stakeholders.

Why do we continually hear from the few who speak out in favor of the "serious" classification? The Council of the Borough of Lincoln resolved and enacted a resolution on Oct. 17, 1995, in support of

Allegheny County and the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

The Allegheny County monitors showed a reduction of about 10 percent in PM-10 from 1994 to 1995 at the Borough of Lincoln monitoring sites. This indicates the SIP coupled with the voluntary reductions by our local industries has worked.

I support the EPA making a decision that, based on valid data collected by Allegheny County, all of the county has achieved compliance with the national standards and should be designated "attainment." It is time the real stakeholders voices are heard on this issue.

Nick Vay
Lincoln Councilman

Clairton Non-Attainment Status Could Affect Jobs

BY LISA BENFORD PETZEL
Daily News Staff Writer

The reclassification of the Clairton area as serious non-attainment for air quality could affect 45 percent of the jobs in a five-community area.

According to Alan Bernstein, director of health and safety products from CONSAD, a company that conducted a research study commissioned by Allegheny Institute on Public Policy, the reclassification of the area by the federal Environmental Protection Agency as serious non-attainment for PM-10 particulate would mean costly regulations for industry that could likely lead to layoffs, bankruptcies, plant shutdowns, reduced wages and job losses.

EPA has proposed changing the classification because of readings in excess of allowable levels of particulates allowable under the 1990 Clean Air Act.

Bernstein said 2,700 jobs could be directly affected in the area that includes Lincoln, Liberty, Clairton, Glassport and Port Vue.

He said 1,900 of the 4,276 jobs in the communities — or 45 percent — have a high probability of being affected.

U.S. Steel's Clairton Works, Aristech Chemical, C & C Marine Sand Blasting and Glassport Transportation Center are among those most likely to be affected, and Edgar Thompson Works, Hercules and Duquesne Light's Elrama plant could be affected as well.

Because the facilities are heavy manufacturing, many other firms that supply materials to the manufacturing companies could be affected as well. He estimated as many as 5,500 to 8,200 jobs could be indirectly affected, many of them from small businesses.

U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Swissvale, who called the press conference at Clairton city hall yesterday he

believes the EPA should allow Allegheny County's \$1.5 million plan that was completed in 1995 time to address the concerns it was designed to before reclassification.

"There has to be a balance between clean air and a productive economy," he said.

Bernstein also said the new classifications could cost area municipalities hundreds of thousands of dollars in unfunded cost on an annual basis.

For instance, he said road sweeping controls to keep down road dust could be required.

Roads were determined to be the biggest sources of pollutants.

Clairton Councilman Donald Desiderio said his already distressed community could not bear to pay the cost of such a control.

"Clairton can't afford to hire a street sweeper and buy equipment," he said.

Jerry Strellick, president of the United Steelworkers Local 1557 said he, too, is behind efforts not to have the area reclassified because he believes it would be devastating to U.S. Steel's Clairton Works.

He said he believes the placement of a monitor across the river from the plant is the same as putting a monitor in a chimney and does not give an accurate depiction of the air quality in the area.

"When I started here in 1968 Clairton Works was a hell hole. But give us a break," he said. "Now there are trees and wildlife."

Port Vue Council President Mark Tortorice, 37, however, said he wants to see the air quality continue to be improved. He said he believes the Hodgkins disease he developed when he was 23 could have been caused by the poor air quality here.

"I'd rather be broke and poor and not have my health," he said.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mon Valley jobs risked

Study: Clean air violations would cripple area's economy

By Karen Zapf
TRIBUNE REVIEW

The Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to find five Mon Valley communities in violation of clean air standards would cripple the economy in those towns and surrounding areas.

That is the conclusion of a new study sponsored by the Allegheny Institute for Public Policy, a local conservative think tank, and completed by CONSAD Research Corp.

According to the study, which was discussed Friday at a news conference at the Clairton Municipal Building — the City of Clairton and the boroughs of Glassport, Port Vue, Liberty and Lincoln face more than 1,900 lost jobs, and constraints would be placed on development.

"The study is designed to put a face on the consequences of government action," said Wilbur A. Steger, president of CONSAD.

"If you cannot eat, air becomes a secondary matter," said U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Swissvale, who is calling for a review of the EPA proposal based on the study.

Also, the EPA mandate would

translate into several hundred thousand dollars in unfunded costs for a new improvement program and street-sweeping controls to reduce road dust.

"The City of Clairton cannot afford to hire street sweepers," said Clairton Councilman Don Desiderio. "We are financially distressed. If Clairton Works closes down you, may as well close down Clairton."

The Clairton/Liberty Borough area, home to large coke-making facilities, was originally found to be in violation of air standards in 1987 and 1988.

A combination of remedial measures undertaken by the cited polluters and an implementation plan developed by the county was successful in reducing the amount of dust particles in the air by the early 1990s.

But on Sept. 19, 1995, the EPA again found the area to be violating federal air-quality standards and proposed to reclassify Clairton/Liberty Borough as a non-attainment area subject to federal intervention and sanctions, including a loss of federal funds for economic growth and highway con-

struction projects.

The county, however, quickly responded. In a letter to the EPA dated Nov. 7, it urged the EPA not to take action at this time against the county, but instead to allow continued implementation of the anti-pollution attainment plan.

If the EPA proceeds with a reclassification of the area, the county would redo its 1993 pollution implementation plan — a plan that it has already spent \$1.5 million to develop.

Gerald Strellick, United Steelworkers local president at the USX Clairton Coke Works, said the air is much cleaner in the region today.

"My lungs breathe clean air here in Clairton," Strellick said. "A handful of people are trying to ruin our lives."

But one member of the audience, Mark Tortorice, 37, president of Port Vue Council who developed Hodgkin's disease at the age of 22, cautioned officials not to ignore the environmental issue.

"I would rather be broke, poor and living, than have a job and not have my health," said Tortorice, who said he has recovered from the disease.

Steger said a copy of the study, which cost \$15,000, has been sent to the EPA, and the agency has not said when a decision will be reached.

E X H I B I T D

APR 30 1996

Concerns aired on planned EPA regulations

By Jason Bolature

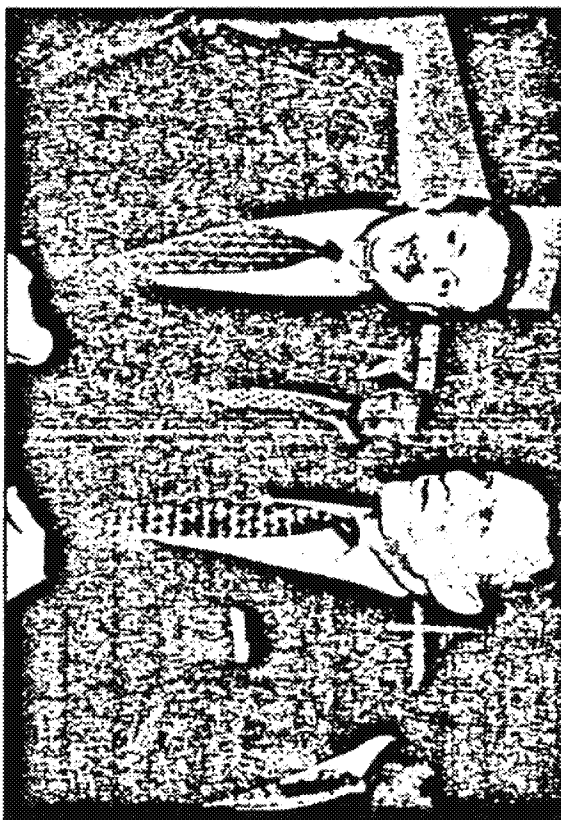
TRIBUNE REVIEW

U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter listened to county and community leaders Monday express their opinions that threatened clean-air regulations are unjust and would cost the Mon Valley thousands of jobs if implemented.

Specter, county officials and leaders of five Mon Valley communities traded information yesterday at South Allegheny Junior-Senior High School in Liberty Borough in preparation for a meeting they are set to have Wednesday with Carol M. Browner, director of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"The EPA is holding up any determination until we have this meeting," said Specter, a Republican from Philadelphia. "The bottom line is we need to purify the air, but we also need to have balance on jobs."

The EPA is considering whether to designate a five-community section of the Mon Valley as a "serious nonattainment area" after polluted air caused violations at a monitoring station last summer. The communities are Clairton, Glassport, Port Vue, Liberty and Lincoln.



Warren L. Leeder photo

Sen. Arlen Specter (right) with Commissioner Larry Dunn

If the EPA classifies the area as a serious violator of air quality, as proposed, Mon. Valley leaders claim steel mills and other manufacturing plants there will be forced to spend money to meet regulations and lay off workers as a result.

"We've lost many jobs in the Mon Valley, and the last thing we need to see is more jobs lost," Liberty Borough Mayor Edward Slater

told Specter.

Jerry Bowyer, president of the Allegheny Institute for Public Policy, a conservative think tank, said 2,700 jobs would be lost and thousands more impacted in some way by proposed EPA regulations.

"We're looking for a common-sense approach where you look at air quality and jobs, not just air quality," said Bowyer, whose group sponsored a report earlier this

month outlining the perceived detriment to the Mon Valley.

Specter met with officials in a room housing an air-monitoring device based at South Allegheny. But it was an air monitor in Lincoln Borough that was the subject of conversation.

That device, the Lincoln High-Volume Monitor, is credited with producing the unclear air readings that caught the EPA's attention. But Roger Westman, air quality manager for Allegheny County, told Specter that readings taken at the site often accumulated more than a day's worth of pollution particles because the device wasn't staffed and cleaned on a daily basis.

"We are following all the EPA guidelines," Westman explained.

"Some of the earlier violations that we saw just slightly over the standard really were due to this factor that we call passive accumulation."

Many leaders also noted that the monitor in question is located in a "hot zone" near an industrial area, downwind of smokestacks.

"It's not located in an area representative of where people live," said Gerald Strellick, United Steelworkers local president at the USX Clairton Coke Works. "It's like putting that monitor right down my chimney."

STATE / REGION

Inspector to ask EPA to re-evaluate Clairton air rating

By Don Hokey
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

Because of the potential loss of jobs, the decision whether the Clairton area is in serious violation of the Clean Air Act should be made at the highest federal level, Sen. Arlen Specter said yesterday.

The Pennsylvania Republican said he will ask U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner to get involved in determining whether five Monongahela River communities should be reclassified from "moderate" to "serious" nonattainment for breathable airborne particles.

"A lot of matters really require top-level evaluation, and this is one that does," Specter said. He said he would bring up the issue tomorrow at a previously scheduled meeting between Browner and county offi-

cials in Washington, D.C., about the region's ozone problems.

"I hope to get from Browner consideration for the unique problems of our region," Specter said after meeting with students, local officials and business leaders at South Allegheny High School, where air quality monitors are located on the roof.

Specter said he will not ask Browner to consider a waiver of the air quality regulations. "We ought to operate within the existing law," he said, noting that he was a strong supporter of the original Clean Air Act in 1969.

Clairton and the boroughs of Lincoln, Port Vue, Liberty and Glassport have been classified by the EPA as in "moderate nonattainment" for five years because monitors recorded higher-than-allowable

"A lot of matters really require top-level evaluation, and this is one that does."

Sen. Arlen Specter

levels of airborne particles in 1988, 1989 and 1990. The area is the only part of Allegheny County that fails to meet federal air quality standards for breathable particulates.

The particulates are produced by industrial and power plant emissions; car, bus and truck engines; wood burning; mining; and construction. Studies have found that

high levels of the minute particles cause lung disease, heart ailments and premature death.

The EPA proposed a "serious nonattainment" classification for the municipalities in September 1995 based on violations of the health standard at the Lincoln monitor in 1992 and 1993, but it has taken no action.

The Group Against Smog and Pollution, a grassroots citizens organization, filed a federal complaint against the EPA in February, saying the agency failed to make the required decision. The EPA must respond this week.

Last week, the Allegheny Institute for Public Policy released a report that found up to 2,700 jobs, primarily in manufacturing, could be affected by the reclassification, with the effects possibly ranging from minimal to periodic layoffs to plant closings.

Specter said the EPA needs to "take a broader view" before it makes a decision on reclassifying the Clairton area. He cited unregulated emissions from across the border in Ohio and West Virginia and inaccurate air monitoring as factors that could cause EPA to give

the region more time to demonstrate compliance to air standards.

Roger Westman, Allegheny County Health Department division manager for air quality, said at least one recorded exceedance, in March 1994, was caused by the accumulation of particulates at a monitoring site over a weekend. He said the department is now changing filters at all monitors daily.

Allegheny County monitors air quality for fine particulates, sulfur dioxide, ozone, lead, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide. There are 18 monitoring sites for fine particulates.

The EPA lists 75 areas in 28 states and Puerto Rico as nonattainment areas. Only five, including Las Vegas and the Los Angeles area, are classified as serious nonattainment areas.